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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode #3.

() - ()
11:30 to 12:30 A.M. C.S.T. JANUARY 21, 1932 THURSDAY

Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are with us again today. You will recall that Ranger Jim Robbins is in charge of the Pine Cone National Forest Ranger District -- and it is his duty to keep the forest green and growing, so that it will be of permanent value to the people of the nation. It's a big job -- and so two weeks ago the supervisor of the district brought Jim a new assistant by the name of Jerry Quick. Ranger Jim has been breaking the boy in with a more or less firm hand, we understand, but last week he did let the boy go to a party in the village. In fact, Ranger Jim and his wife also went, and had a great time.

Today we find Jim and Jerry walking in the woods -- going to the spot where they are going to mark some timber for cutting. They have been talking about the dance and --

(MUSIC FADES OUT)

JIM: By the way, Jerry, how about that pretty girl you were with at the dance? Seen her lately?

JERRY: Which pretty girl?

JIM: There you go, trying to be innocent. I saw you looking calf-eyed at her at the party the other night.

JERRY: Do you mean Miss Holloway?

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brought Jim a new assistant by the name of Jerry Quirk.

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also went, and had a great time.

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going to the spot where they are going to mark some timber for

cutting. They have been talking about the dance and --

(MUSIC FADES OUT)

By the way, Jerry, how about that party you

JIM:

were with at the dance? Seen her lately?

Which party girl?

JERRY:

There you go, trying to be innocent. I saw you

JIM:

looking sideways at her at the party the other

night.

So you mean the hell-

JERRY:

JIM: Of course -- Mary Halloway. I thought you'd know who I was talking about, seeing as how you didn't much more'n look at anyone else all evening. Come on, now, confess: seen her lately?

JERRY: Why -- I saw her once or twice at the post office ---- when I went down for the mail.

JIM: Yeah, purely by accident, I reckon. (with mock severity) Well, just so you keep your mind on your work. You won't be having much time to run around after every pretty girl you see.

JERRY: (slightly indignant) I am not running around after every girl I see.

JIM: Ooooh. Just one girl, eh? Well----never mind. Here we are, I guess.

JERRY: This where we're going to mark.

JIM: Yep, right here. We start marking the timber starting here and running up that slope.

JERRY: Nice looking timber isn't it?

JIM: Mighty pretty. Over there you can see where the company's been cutting.

JERRY: Looks almost like it had never been touched.

JIM: They left it in good condition all right. I'll have to tell Al Perkins that -- when he gets here. He'll be along any minute.

JERRY: Is he the logging boss?

Of course -- Harry Halloway. I thought you'd know who I was talking about, seeing as how you didn't much more'n look at anyone else all evening. Come on, now, confess: seen her lately?

Why -- I saw her once or twice at the post office ---- when I went down for the mail. Yeah, purely by accident, I reckon. (With mock severity) Well, just so you keep your mind on your work. You won't be having much time to run around after every pretty girl you see.

(slightly indignant) I am not running around after every girl I see.

Oooh. Just one girl, eh? Well ---- never mind. Here we are, I guess.

This where we're going to work. Yep, right here. We start working the timber starting here and running up that slope.

Nice looking timber isn't it? Mighty pretty. Over there you can see where the company's been cutting.

Looks almost like it had never been touched. They left it in good condition all right. I'll have to tell Al Perkins that -- when he gets here. He'll be along any minute.

Is he the logging boss?

JIM: Yeah....,al's logging boss for the Winding Creek Lumber Company--and being such why he has charge of the cutting up here. Al did a good job. You see, they just took out the old trees I marked for 'em, and now all the young stuff is still growing there pert as ever. Hardly damaged a youngtree in getting the old timber out.

JERRY: There's plenty of young stuff left.

JIM: There should be. This reproduction here, hardly coming up to your knee, is just about the most important thing in this forest. Mull that over, son.

JERRY: I know that, all right. These little trees will be big ones some day.

JIM: That's just it. We've got to look out for these little fellows so the folks will have a forest here after you and I are turned out to grass.

JERRY: That's Perkins coming now, isn't it?

JIM: Where? Oh, yeah. Hell-o, Al.

AL PERKINS: (Coming on) Hell-o, Jim, how are yuh?

JIM: Finer'n frog's hair. -- Perkin's shake hands with Jerry Quick.

JERRY: How are you, Mr. Perkins.

PERKINS: Glad to know you, Mr. Quick.

JIM: This is the new assistant ranger I've been telling you about, Al.

PERKINS: Oh, so you're the fellow, eh? I've been hearing about you.

JIM:

Yeah... Al's logging boss for the Winding Creek
Lumber Company--and being such why he has charge
of the cutting up here. Al did a good job. You
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There should be. This reproduction here, hardly
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JIM:

son:

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here after you and I are turned out to grass.

JERRY:

That's Perkins coming now, isn't it?

JIM:

Where? Oh, yeah. Hell-o, Al.

AL PERKINS:

(Coming on) Hell-o, Jim, how are you?

JIM:

Finer'n frog's hair. -- Perkins's shakes hands with

Jerry quick.

JERRY:

How are you, Mr. Perkins.

PERKINS:

Glad to know you, Mr. Quick.

JIM:

This is the new assistant ranger I've been telling

you about, Al.

PERKINS:

Oh, so you're the fellow, and I've been hearing

about you.

JERRY: (laughs) Nothing bad, I hope.

PERKINS: No, not exactly. I just heard some of the girls down in Winding Creek talking about how good looking the young fellow at the ranger station was!

(JIM AND PERKINS BOTH LAUGH)

JIM: That's just it, Al. Just as I was saying, I bet I know one girl, anyhow, that's making eyes at him.

PERKINS: (obviously working Jerry up;kidding) Well, you know, Jim-- they say love is blind-- And you sure can't make a ranger out of a blind man!

(GUFFAWS FROM BOTH)

JIM: I never saw it done yet, Al!

JERRY: (angry) Now, look here! You fellows have gone far enough. I don't mind a little kidding, but when---

JIM: Sa - a-y! Just a minute ... just a minute, young fellow!

PERKINS: Forget it, buddy.

JIM: Be careful there, Jerry, boy. We're just having a little fun with you. Just sort of preparing you for what any green-horn's in for once he gets on the range. No harm meant.

JERRY: (in thorough good humor again; laughs) All right Mr. Robbins. You too, Mr. Perkins. I guess you'll find I'm just as good a sport as the rest of 'em. Just try me--- whatever you can give -- I can take!

PERKINS: That's the spirit.

JIM: Sure. (chuckles) We'll just let Jerry grow whiskers, for protection, see? (ALL LAUGH)

PERKINS: That's the idea.

JIM: Anyhow, it's pretty cold to stand here gabbing. Jerry's going to start marking timber for you on this slope today, Al.

PERKINS: Good. He'd better hurry along or we'll catch up with him on the cutting. We'll finish logging on that piece down below pretty quick now.

JIM: I'm going to help him get started. By the way, Al, were you going to put your skid trails here?

PERKINS: Dunno, Jim. I haven't looked it over yet.

JIM: Well, just work around that patch of nice poles up there. I don't want any of 'em knocked down.

PERKINS: All right, Jim, I'll warn the boys about that.--- Say, you couldn't find fault with the way we worked over that last piece if you tried to.

JIM: Not bad, Al, not bad. You did a nice job. This young stuff will grow up fast, now that it can get more light and more room.

PERKINS: Yeah. It'll come along real splendid now. (laughs) Maybe I'll still be logging foreman here when that piece is ready to cut over again.

JIM: I don't know, Al; thirty or forty years is a long time for us old codgers. Maybe Jerry, he,.... But I hope you are, Al, hope you are.

PERKINS: Well, right now, I got to get to work. I'm glad to have met you, Mr. Quick.

JERRY: Thanks, Mr. Perkins. I'm glad I saw you.

PERKINS: And I'll tell you, young fellow, if you turn out to be half as good a ranger as Jim Robbins is, there won't be any complaints from us!

JIM: (laughs) Get along with that job of yours, Al.

PERKINS: All right. See you later!

JIM: So long, Al.

JERRY: So long, Mr. Perkins.

JIM: Well, let's us get going, Jerry -- This slope here is almost a pure stand of pine, so marking it'll be easy. You just mark the trees that are ready to come out, and leave all the thrifty young stuff for the next crop, see?

JERRY: Yes sir.

JIM: Then, just as I told you, you want to take out the crooked trees and the diseased ones, too -- and open up some of the crowded clumps so the rest of the trees will grow faster.

JERRY: All right, Mr. Robbins -- Say, these pines with their braches all covered with snow make a pretty sight, don't they?

JIM: Yeah. (slyly) It's a mighty pretty sight.-- But it's too bad we haven't had a wind lately to shake the snow out of the trees.

JERRY: Why?

JIM: I reckon you'll find out why.-- Now, let's get started and put some of those marking rules I've been telling you about into practise. Remember, as you're marking watch out for the catfaces, signs of rot. And be sure to put the mark low. If you don't, it's just like I told you, the loggers will come along, cut low like they're told to do, and cut the blazes off.

JERRY: I see...

JIM: Here, I'll mark this first tree here so you can get the hang of it. See-- just cut a blaze a blaze about as high as your shoulder (SOUND EFFECT: SINGLE STROKE OF THE AX, with a clear-cut chopping sound) -- and then stamp the U.S. in the blaze with the die of your ax -- like this (SOUND OF BUTT HITTING WOOD) See?

JERRY: Sure -- it's easy.

JIM: Wait a minute.-- Then you make another mark just like it down close to the ground. This is the one I was telling you must be put low. Now -- (SINGLE AX STROKE--THEN STAMPING OF TREE WITH BUTT OF AX)

JERRY: Oh, I see. Then you can check the stumps to see that no trees were cut that weren't marked.

JIM: Exactly. And with the upper blaze the cutters won't be so apt to miss a tree, and you can check back on your own marking, too.

JERRY: "Check and double check". I'll mark this tree, huh?

JIM: That one's pretty small. Better let it grow awhile.---- Try this one over here.

JERRY: All right.

(SOUND OF AX STROKE -- ONE)

JIM: Hey, wait a minute. --- You want to mark 'em all on the same side. Then you can look back and see the blazes -- and when you work the next strip you won't be marking the same tree again on another side.

JERRY: Oh, yes....I see.

(SOUND OF SEVERAL AX STROKES: JERRY HACKS AWAY WITH HIS AX TREE OR FOUR TIMES, WASTING STRENGTH ON TERRIFIC BADLY HANDLED STROKES)

JIM: Getting some exercise?

JERRY: (a little out of breath) Wait, I'll get it!

(SOUND OF TWO OR THREE MORE AX STROKES)

JIM: You don't need to chop the tree down, you know.

JERRY: Say, you made that first blaze with one stroke didn't you? What's the trick, anyway?

JIM: Well, you just hit 'er slanting-like, and sort of spring out the chip. Look--- like this. (ONE AX STROKE)

JERRY: Gosh, it looks easy.

JIM: Try another one.

JERRY: Okay.

(SOUND OF TWO OR THREE AX STROKES)

JERRY: (begins to howl) Ow-w-w-. Ooh.....

JIM: (laughs) That's beautiful snow in the trees, is it? Pretty, eh?

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JERRY: Oh, boy, but it's cold. O-w-w! Gee, I bet a whole bucketful went down the back of my neck!

JIM: (still chuckling) That's just one of the joys of marking timber in the winter, Jerry.

JERRY: B-r-r-. It's clear down to my belt.

JIM: Then turn up your coat collar, young fellow, or you'll be wet as a dish rag by the time the day's over.

JERRY: The back of my shirt feels like a dish-rag now.

JIM: (laughs) That's too bad. But come on, we'll work on up the slope. Don't forget to keep count of the trees you mark!

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(INTERMITTENT SOUNDS OF AX STROKES THROUGH CLOSE OF MUSIC: THEY CONTINUE AS MUSIC FADES DOWN TO BACKGROUND)

JIM: (calls) Oh, Jerry! (STROKES END)

JERRY: (from distance) Yo-o!

JIM: Let's go up to the cabin and warm up a bit.

JERRY: Okay!

(MUSIC UP AND SWELLS TO CONCLUSION)

(DOOR SLAMS)

JIM: Now you can thaw out, Jerry.

JERRY: I'll say so. I've got so much now down the back of my neck my backbone feels like the north pole.

JIM: Well, we'll start a fire and you can toast your spinal column while I fix some lunch.

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JIM: All right. You'll find plenty of wood by the stove there.

JIM: (while he lays out lunch, etc. JERRY is working at fire-- occasional rattle of stove wood, etc. -- crackling paper) How many trees did you mark?

JERRY: I-- I think it was about ninety. I lost count.

JIM: (chuckles) I thought maybe you would. Fact is, you marked ninety-two.

JERRY: How did you know?

JIM: Why, I just sort of kept an eye on you, and kept count of your trees along with mine.

JERRY: Well, how many did you mark?

JIM: Put me down in the notebook for four hundred trees even.

JERRY: Four hundred! Gee, how did you do it?

JIM: Don't worry, son. You'll get the knack of it. -- I was kinda slow at it this morning. Ought to do better than four hundred.

JERRY: Better than four hundred?

JIM: Sure. Say, this lunch is all set out here for you. How's that fire coming; haven't you got it started yet?

JERRY: Yeah, but this old stove here won't draw a whoop.

JIM: Just a second.....I'll take a look at it.

JERRY: (blowing on fire with all his strength) Doggone this thing-- I'm cold.

JIM: (up full) Just let an old timer have a look. - (pause) Say -- you'll never have any luck trying to build a fire in oven. Mull that over, son!

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(slight pause)

JERRY: In -- in that -- oven!? Well, I'll be----- (as if the word were said, though it isn't).

(MUSIC)

ANNOUNCER: Well, folks, Jerry will learn some day. --- And maybe he'll see the day when some of us make the mistake of building a fire in the oven!

Mature timber in the national forests may be sold to responsible bidders because it has passed the stage where it is growing at a profitable rate, and at a time when it should give way to young trees and seedlings which insure continuous production. Trees to be cut are marked in advance by a forest officer, who makes sure that enough of the younger trees are left to seed the ground and form the basis of a second crop of timber on the same land. This is merely applying the principals of practical forestry so that there will always be timber growing in the national forests. The long-time plans made by the forest officers insure a constant supply of timber for the communities and industries dependent on the forest for raw material. This is made possible the establishment of permanent wood-using plants and prosperous communities of people who depend on timber-cutting for their living. This is an example of what the Forest Service means which it says: "Conservation is wise use."

Next Thursday we shall hear more of the adventures of Ranger Jim Robbins and his assistant, Jerry Quick. In today's episode Harvey Hays played the role of Jim; Arthur Jacobson that of Jerry Quick, and _____ was Al Perkins.

(slight pause)

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JERRY:

if the word were said, though it isn't).

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of Jerry Quirk, and Al Perkins.

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